



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** America's WETLAND, a vast landscape extending along Louisiana's coast and home to a unique and intricate ecosystem, is disappearing at a rate of 25 square miles per year; and

**WHEREAS,** America's WETLAND is an area of world ecological significance and of strategic importance to our national economy and energy security, and is now at great risk; and

**WHEREAS,** The state has lost 1,900 square miles of land since the 1930's and is expected to lose another 700 square miles over the next 50 years if nothing is done to save it; and

**WHEREAS,** The nation relies on Louisiana's working wetlands to provide protection for oil and gas pipelines that serve as a major artery for delivering 30 percent of our nation's energy supply to heat our homes and power our cars; and

**WHEREAS,** America's WETLAND is the wintering habitat for millions of waterfowl and migratory birds whose habitat is lost as the wetlands disappear, and more than 30 percent of the nation's fisheries catch (from the lower 48 states) comes from offshore Louisiana; and

**WHEREAS,** It is vitally important for the federal government to recognize the consequences of coastal land loss and to support pending funding efforts for coastal restoration projects; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I** Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim the month of September as

SAVE AMERICA'S WETLAND, WRITE NOW! month in the state of Louisiana, and urge our citizens to do their part in helping to educate all Americans about the impact Louisiana's wetland loss has on our state, the nation and the world, and to support efforts to raise awareness of this urgent situation by writing to their friends, families and elected officials to tell them we must save America's WETLAND now.



Attest By  
The Governor

*Kathleen Babineaux Blanco*  
Secretary of State

In Witness Whereof, I have hereto set  
my hand officially and caused to be affixed the  
Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the  
Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this  
the 18th day of August  
A.D., 2005.

*Kathleen Babineaux Blanco*  
Governor of Louisiana